Persistent Prayer
Following Jesus in Prayer (Part-5)
Sunday July 09, 2023

As we journey through this study on "Following Jesus in Prayer", we will reflect on each of these 8 aspects of prayer. We trust that there will be much learning and growth in each of our personal prayer lives:

1) *Praying in secret*
2) *A pattern for personal prayer*
3) *Believing prayer*
4) *Persistent prayer*
5) *Prayer of submission and surrender*
6) *Intercessory prayer*
7) *Jesus' teaching on prayer*
8) *His present ministry – our great High Priest*

Two Stories Of Persistence

The Lord Jesus taught us about persistent prayer or persistence in prayer. He used two illustrations to communicate this to us. We will examine these two illustrations, highlight key learnings and then briefly answer some questions such as: how do we practice persistent prayer? Why is persistent prayer necessary? When should i practice persistent prayer?

To impress upon us the importance of persistence in prayer, Jesus used two illustrations:
Luke 11 The persistent friend
Luke 18 The widow and the unjust judge

The Persistent Friend

Luke 11:1-13
1 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."
2 So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.
3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."
5 And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves;
6 for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him';
7 and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'?
8 I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.
9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?
12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?
13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

The Lord Jesus is teaching about prayer. He provides an outline to pray with, in the Lord's prayer. And before He can give us the assurance of answered prayer (vs 9-13), the Lord interjects His teaching with the illustration of the friend who goes asking for bread at mid-night.

In vs 8, the word translated 'persistence' is the Greek word 'anaideia', which means without shame or shamelessness, impudence, boldness, without regard to time, place, or person, implying persistence.

Consider how a few other English versions translate this part of the text:
because of his shameless insisting (LITV)
because of his shamelessness (NASB)
because of his shameless persistence and insistence (AMPC)
because of his persistence and boldness (AMP)
because of your shameless audacity (NIV)

The Lord Jesus is teaching us that in prayer we need to approach our Heavenly Father not only based on relationship, but also with this sense of "shameless persistence and insistence" on our part. It is in one sense, almost being unapologetic for the petition we

are making, and the insistence with which we are making it. We are asking to receive, and unwilling to take a 'no' for a response.

This shameless boldness, audacity, persistence and insistence, this holy stubbornness in prayer, is something the Lord Jesus taught us to have. So, this approach to prayer is not a 'bad thing'.

We can therefore conclude that the Lord Jesus is teaching us NOT TO take the opposite approach in prayer. We **must avoid** a lackadaisical, if it happens it happens, its ok if it does not, approach to prayer.

Perhaps for some of us we need to make this shift in how we pray. Pray as the Lord Jesus taught us to. Follow Jesus' teaching on prayer. We must learn to be persistent in prayer.

The Persistent Widow

Luke 18:1-8
1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,
2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.
3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.'
4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man,
5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' "
6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said.
7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?
8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

The Lord Jesus is once again teaching us not to lose heart in prayer.

The word translated 'lose heart' in Greek means 'to be utterly spiritless, to be wearied out, exhausted' (Thayer Dictionary).
always to pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up) (AMPC)

We have to be bold and continue without giving up, in other words, we have to stay persistent in prayer.

God will intervene much more speedily than the unjust judge.

(GNB) 7 Now, will God not judge in favor of his own people who cry to him day and night for help? Will he be slow to help them?

Now, lets discuss this further by addressing a few questions on this subject.

How Do We Practice Persistent Prayer?

Persistence or continuing in prayer, crying out day and night.

This means that we are standing before God in prayer and faith for a certain matter until we see the answer here on earth.

There are many ways we can be persistent in prayer.
We may go before God, day after day, week after week:
A, Declaring His promises that He has made and our continued faith in His Word.
B, Continuing to thank Him that He has heard our prayer for this matter and for His answer.
C, Praying and interceding over that matter in tongues.

Why is Persistent Prayer Necessary?

#1, Persistent prayer demonstrates determined faith.

Persistence in prayer does not change God. It changes us.
It brings us to a place of absolute faith in God.
It brings us to a place of absolute dependence on God.

Matthew 15:21-28, the Canaanite woman would not be deterred by the disciples or even by what Jesus initially said. She made her request and then she worshipped Jesus. She would not take no for an answer, and the Lord commended her faith. "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." (Matthew 15:28).

#2, Persistent prayer weakens and breaks down demonic opposition.

Jesus taught us that possessing some things in the Kingdom requires determined tenacity.

Matthew 11:12
And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

There is a sense of violence, a spiritual tenacity to take what God has made available to us freely in His Kingdom. The reason is we need to fight and push past the flesh (our own flesh) and the devil.

We learn from Daniel 10, that demons attempt to hinder answers to prayer in the heavenly realms. Daniel persisted through 21 days, and finally saw the answer to his prayer.

Hence we conclude both from the teaching of Jesus and from what Daniel experienced, that persistent prayer is necessary to push past and to break through demonic opposition and hinderance.

#3, Persistent prayer births divine purposes

Prayer, as we have taught in other sermons is often compared to childbirth.
God could have designed childbirth as a 1-day process. Yet for some reason, for us as humans childbirth is a process that takes about 9-months.

Persistent prayer is often required to make this journey, especially when we are giving birth to divine purposes on the earth. We have addressed this in depth in another sermon "Laboring in Birth - Travailing Intercessory Prayer" (November 21, 2021) and hence will not repeat this here.

When Should I Practice Persistent Prayer?

When we are pursuing something, we know God has promised or God desires for us to have, and we do not see it happen immediately, it is important, not to give up, but to stay persistent in prayer for that matter. This could be a personal promise of God for your life, your spouse, children, family, etc.

PRAY LIKE JESUS
Follow Jesus in prayer.
Pray persistent prayers.

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Persistent Prayer
Following Jesus in Prayer (Part-5)
Sunday July 09, 2023

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome
The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word
Read the following Scripture references: *Luke 11:1-13; Luke 18:1-8; Matthew 11:12*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together
Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

Q1, Review the two illustrations Jesus used to teach about persistent prayer. Do you think Jesus communicated the need for persistent prayer clearly and without ambiguity? Is it right for us to have shameless boldness, audacity, persistence, insistence, and holy stubbornness in prayer?

Q2, Discuss the 3 reasons that were presented to explain why persistent prayer is necessary?

#1, Persistent prayer demonstrates determined faith.
#2, Persistent prayer weakens and breaks down demonic opposition.
#3, Persistent prayer births divine purposes.

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey
Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another
Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:
1, families to be protected and strengthened
2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.
YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore
WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:
CHURCH: https://apcwo.org
FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons
FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english
DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional
JESUS CHRIST: https://examiningjesus.com
BIBLE COLLEGE: https://apcbiblecollege.org
E-LEARNING: https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn
WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools
COUNSELING: https://chrysalislife.org
MUSIC: https://apcmusic.org
MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: https://pamfi.org
CHURCH APP: https://apcwo.org/app
CHURCHES: https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches
WORLD MISSIONS: https://apcworldmissions.org

SERMON OUTLINE

Prayer is an opportunity for us to partner with God to see His Kingdom come and His will be established here on earth. In this sermon series "Following Jesus in Prayer", we examine the life, the practices, and teachings of Jesus in 8 important aspects of prayer: 1) Praying in secret, 2) A pattern for personal prayer, 3) Believing prayer, 4) Persistent prayer, 5) Prayer of submission and surrender, 6) Intercessory prayer, 7) Jesus' teaching on prayer, 8) His present ministry – our great High Priest. Expect your prayer life to be enriched and strengthened as we learn to develop our prayer lives based on prayer life of Jesus Himself.

In Part-5 of this sermon series, in "Persistent Prayer" we review the two illustrations Jesus used to teach about persistent prayer. We learn about the importance of having shameless boldness, audacity, persistence, insistence, and holy stubbornness in prayer. We also discuss three reasons why persistent prayer is necessary: #1, Persistent prayer demonstrates determined faith.
#2, Persistent prayer weakens and breaks down demonic opposition. #3, Persistent prayer births divine purposes. We also learn how to be persistent in prayer and when we should do so. Trust this message will encourage you to follow Jesus in prayer.

KEYWORDS
prayer, persistent prayer, persistence in prayer, persevering in prayer, pray like Jesus, the prayer life of Jesus, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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